

Central Intelligence Agency



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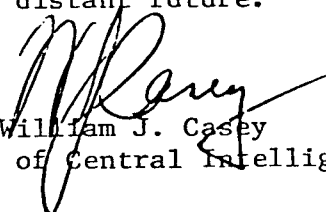
MEMORANDUM FOR: The President  
The Vice President  
Secretary of State  
Secretary of Defense  
Counsellor to the President  
Chief of Staff to the President  
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT : Yuriy Andropov

1. Yuriy Andropov presently seems to be the front runner to succeed Brezhnev. While we have no idea how long Brezhnev may live or retain his present position, his demise could come at any time. Accordingly, we have prepared a comprehensive assessment of Andropov that examines his personality, policy views, political alliances and style.

2. I believe it is worth your time to read this study and gain some appreciation of what manner of man may succeed Brezhnev. I found two aspects of the study particularly interesting. First, I was struck by Andropov's decades-long preparation to assume the leadership position, and the unique strengths he would bring to the top spot. Second, I was impressed to learn the extent of his political alliances and how long they have been forming. For example, he is an old friend and ally of Defense Minister Ustinov, Foreign Minister Gromyko and, ironically, Kirilenko -- one of those he is perceived to have edged out in the succession race. He was also close to Suslov -- the long time conservative kingmaker -- before the latter's death last January, and he also has longstanding ties to Brezhnev.

3. In sum, I think you will find this a most interesting biography with a wealth of anecdotal information that offers insights into a man we may be dealing with in the not too distant future.

  
William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

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